

Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission

Spring 2009



◆ GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR KELVIN W. SCOTT ◆
◆ CHAIR EMMA BELL ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY KARANDJEFF ◆

The Status of Young Women in Michigan

The Michigan Women's Commission has completed a special report on the status of young women in Michigan and made recommendations for action. The complete report is available on our website at www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

This overview of the status of Michigan's young women defines "young women" as females ages 10 to 19. Overall, the status of Michigan's young women is similar to that of all U.S. young women. In health, Michigan's young women are more overweight yet exercise more per week,

drink and smoke at about the same rate, and have less sex during the high school years yet have a higher pregnancy rate when compared to all U.S. young women. In education, Michigan's young women are doing better in reading and English, doing worse in science and math, and graduating from high school and attending college in higher numbers when compared to Michigan's young men of the same age. Data comes from national, state and non-profit sources.

The Michigan Women's Commission hopes this

information helps policy makers, community members, parents and young women in discussing matters affecting young women's lives.

The Michigan Women's Commission's recommendations, based on this report, are:

General Health Recommendations for Action

- 1) Share data on critical health objectives on the state and community level, to assist in community efforts to improve adolescent health.

- 2) Encourage Michigan communities to study adolescent health issues in their community, and create a community adolescent health profile.
- 3) Based on community's concerns, leadership and resources, prioritize critical health objectives.
- 4) Ensure adolescents are included in community collaborations developed to address adolescent health issues.

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STAFF:

Judy Karandjeff, Executive Director • Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Status of Young Women ...

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- 5) Increase the availability of effective services and programs for at-risk female youth.
- 6) Require that schools teach health and physical education at all grade levels.
- 7) Support implementation of school-based prevention programs, including alcohol- or other drug use prevention, nutrition and dietary counseling services, physical activity and fitness counseling services, suicide prevention services, tobacco-use prevention services and violence prevention services.
- 8) Increase the number and use of child and adolescent health centers.
- 6) Start programs at the elementary level through high school to encourage females to study mathematics and science.
- 7) Promote mentoring programs.
- 8) Provide schools with the resources they need so they can afford to give females the educational experiences they need to succeed.
- 9) Encourage and monitor enrollment in career education for non-traditional fields for females.

Reproductive Health Recommendations for Action:

- 1) Expand on and strengthen effective, age-appropriate, abstinence-based comprehensive prevention programs for adolescents in school and community settings by the MI Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative.
- 2) Support programs such as Talk Early & Talk Often, which encourage parent-child communication on sexual decision making, abstinence, and teenage relationships.
- 3) Focus on enhancing the education of youth in regards to HIV testing, chlamydia and gonorrhea screening, and treatment programs for *at risk* youth.
- 4) Support child and adolescent health centers so more health services are available to teens.
- 5) Support the state's family planning program and expand access to teens throughout the state.
- 6) Support the newly formed statewide organization to address teen pregnancy, Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH).

Education Recommendations for Action:

- 1) Encourage government entities (state departments and agencies, schools, etc.) and other private organizations, to collect data by gender and ethnicity and use the information to focus programs.
- 2) Require schools to perform exit interviews when students leave high school (dropouts and others).
- 3) Provide appropriate counseling, both academic and personal, to females in grades 8 – 12.
- 4) Start programs at the elementary level that will continue through the twelfth grade that encourage parent involvement in their children's education.
- 5) Partner with area colleges and trade schools in programs to encourage females to explore the array of career opportunities available to them.

New Video of Michigan Women

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and Gary May Productions/GMAY TV have prepared a television documentary, "We Can Do It! A Celebration of Michigan Women," for the 25th Anniversary for the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

The video features in-depth interviews with some of the Michigan women who have made history.

The documentary is airing on some PBS channels in Michigan.

You can also obtain a copy of the video by contacting the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame at (517) 484-1880, or www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for postage.

Correction: Please note the correct information regarding the names of the women serving on the University of Michigan's Board of Regents. We apologize for the omission.

The University of Michigan Board of Regents

There are 8 members that are elected statewide serving on a partisan ballot for 8 year terms. There are 5 women currently serving, 4 Democrats and one Republican: Julia Donovan Darlow, Denise Ilitch, Andrea Fischer Newman, Olivia P. Maynard, Katherine E. White.

Commission News

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced the following re-appointments to the Michigan Women's commission: Rana Abbas, Pam Faris and Sheryl Mitchell to serve for terms expiring July 15, 2011.

In addition, Governor Granholm announced the new appointment of Tom Wilson of Wyandotte, who began the Michigan Gender-Equity Team, M GET, (www.mi-gender-equity.com) in 1998. Through M GET, Tom maintains a web site, e-mail list serve and fosters active relationships with other groups advocating for gender equity. Mr. Wilson is appointed for a term expiring July 15, 2011. He succeeds Rosa Morales whose term expired.

We thank Rosa Morales for her work to improve the quality of life for Michigan's women.

We also welcome a new ex officio member and liaisons from state departments: Diane Earls, Michigan Department of Civil Service, Lt. Col. Kristie Kibbey Etue from the Michigan Department of State Police, and Lt. Tina Straw and Sonya Butler from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

President Obama's Women's Council & Agenda

On March 11, President Obama established a White House Council on Women and Girls. The purpose of the council "is to establish a coordinated Federal response to issues that particularly impact the lives of women and girls and to ensure that Federal programs and policies address and take into account the distinctive concerns of women and girls, including women of color and those with disabilities." The membership of the council consists of heads of executive branch departments, agencies and offices.

In addition, President Obama released a women's agenda. Highlights of the agenda are below. You can find more detailed information at www.whitehouse.gov/agenda.

Health Care:

- Fixing the Nation's Health Care System
- Empowering Women to Prevent HIV/AIDS
- Supporting Research into Women's Health
- Fighting Cancer
- Reducing Health Risks Due to Mercury Pollution
- Supporting Stem Cell Research

Reproductive Choice:

- Supports a Woman's Right to Choose
- Preventing Unintended Pregnancy

Preventing Violence Against Women:

- Reducing Domestic Violence
- Strengthening Domestic Violence Laws
- Fighting Gender Violence Abroad

National Security:

- Caring for Women Veterans

Poverty:

- Raise the minimum wage
- Helping Low-Income Workers

Education:

- Protecting Title IX
- Expanding Early Childhood Education
- Promoting Women in Math and Science
- Improving Our Schools
- Making College More Affordable

New Program Directory

The Great Lakes Girls Cooperative Program encourages programs and organizations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin that focus on motivating girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to add their information to the Program Directory.

This Program Directory lists organizations and programs that focus on motivating girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this directory is to help organizations and individuals network, share resources, and collaborate on STEM-related projects for girls.

It can be accessed at <http://www.ngcproject.org/directory>.

Young Women Strong Leaders

The Young Women, Strong Leaders conferences have been completed at two sites this spring. Grand Valley State University held their conference on March 20 and Wayne State University held their conference on March 27.

At Grand Valley State University we had 150 students and 40 mentors participating. The speakers included Representative Mary Valentine and Leslie R. Wolfe, President of Center for Women's Policy Studies. At Wayne State University we had 130 students and 40 mentors participating. The speakers included Dan G. Mulhern, Michigan's First Gentleman, Senator Gilda Jacobs, and Rochele Riley, Detroit Free Press. Both conferences featured leadership skill building and mentoring breakout sessions.

We particularly want to thank all of the students, mentors, presenters, sponsors and coordinators that made the days possible. A variety of people and organizations made these conferences possible, including Alma College, Grand Valley State University, Wayne State University, Michigan ACE Women's Network; Michigan Women's Commission; Michigan State University Women's Resource Center; Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career & Technical Preparation; and U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau.

A third conference is scheduled for Alma College on Friday, April 17.



No Worker Left Behind

Enabling workers to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the fast-changing global economy of the 21st Century is central to Michigan's strategy for economic transformation. The No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) initiative was launched to provide up to two years worth of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training provider to help Michigan workers upgrade their skills and transition into new careers. Since August 2007, over 61,000 individuals have enrolled in NWLB. The vision for NWLB is to 1) accelerate worker transitions through learning; 2) support the state's employers and economic development needs; and 3) align the use of existing training resources.



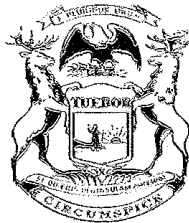
Any individual who is currently unemployed; has received a notice of termination or layoff from employment; or is employed with a family income of \$40,000 or less may be eligible. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. If age 18-23, individuals must not have graduated from high school within the last two years and must not be a full-time college student.

For more information go to www.michigan.gov/nwlb or call (517) 335-1319. To apply for NWLB, individuals should contact their local Michigan Works! Agency at 1-800-285-9675.



Top: Grand Valley State University. Bottom: Wayne State University.

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Executive
Office

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,
do hereby proclaim April 28, 2009,

Equal Pay Day

Whereas, Forty years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act and title VII of the Civil Rights Act, women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay differentials; and,

Whereas, According to statistics released in 2008 by the U.S. Census Bureau, year-round, full-time working women earned only 78 percent of the earnings of year-round, full-time working men, indicating little change or progress in pay equity; and,

Whereas, Higher education is not free from wage discrimination according to a U.S. Department of Education analysis, reporting that, after assembling a control group based on rank, age, credentials, field of study and other factors, full-time female faculty members earn nearly nine percent less than their male counterparts; and,

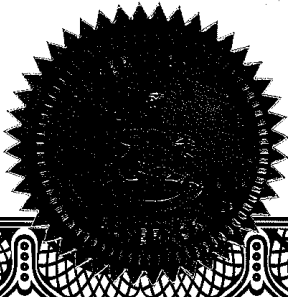
Whereas, Over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages, impacting Social Security benefits and pensions; and,

Whereas, Fair pay equity policies can be implemented simply and without undue costs or hardship in both the public and private sectors; and,

Whereas, Fair pay strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs while enhancing the American economy; and,

Whereas, April 28, 2009, symbolizes the time in the new year in which the wages paid to American women catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, governor of the state of Michigan, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2009, Equal Pay Day in Michigan and urge the citizens to recognize the full value of women's skills and significant contributions to the labor force and further encourage businesses to conduct an internal pay evaluation to ensure women are being paid fairly.



Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

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CALENDAR

May – Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month (www.nof.org/awareness2/annual.htm) & National Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month (www.teenpregnancy.org)

May 10 - 16 – National Women's Health Week - www.womenshealth.gov/whw

May 10, Sunday – Mother's Day – 1914 First National Observance

June 10 – Michigan Women's Commission Meeting, 110 W. Michigan Ave., 8th floor, Lansing MI Legislative Committee meeting 10 a.m., Commission meeting 1:00 p.m. Call 517-373-2884.

June 10 – Michigan Women's Historical Center & Women's Hall of Fame, "25th Annual Picnic on the Lawn," 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Call (517) 484-1880 ext. 203.

July 2 – Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed.

Mailing List Update

If your name or address needs to be changed on our newsletter mailing label, or if you receive duplicates, please mail or fax (517-335-1649) the correct information (along with your current label) to the address or fax number listed. You can also email us at MDCR-WomensComm@michigan.gov.